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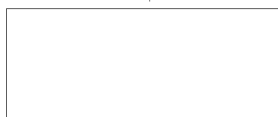
**Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**

NEWSLETTER

Edition 86-4

1 July 1986

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NOTICE

Field Bureaus are reminded that copies of this Newsletter should be destroyed after reading by U.S. Staff employees. This Newsletter is not to be retained in field bureaus.

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NEWSLETTER

1 JULY 1986

RESTON MOVE

A Headquarters Engineering Division (HED) survey has revealed that nearly 500 individual pieces of equipment will need to be moved when FBIS relocates to Reston. Equipment to be moved includes everything from typewriters and WANGs to fax machines and photocopiers. ☐

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An FBIS Reston Activation Plan is being prepared by HED. The plan includes all elements of facility preparatory work, moving and installation of equipment, identification of responsibility for major activities and a master work schedule. The plan is being coordinated with Automated FBIS System (AFS) activation and includes the integration of AFS deliveries to Reston and the transition to operations. ☐

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A subcommittee reporting to the Move Committee was formed in April to ensure that employees' concerns regarding quality of life at the new building are kept in mind during planning. The subcommittee is chaired by ☐ and is working on three main topics: transportation, the building itself, and services. The transportation group is looking at car and van pools, public bus service, and parking. The building group is working on health and fitness needs, the smoking issue, eating areas, and first aid. The services group is gathering information on restaurants, banks, shops in the area, medical facilities, and recreation available to employees in Reston. ☐

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ROSET DEVELOPMENTS

Three additional antennas have been erected at Panama Bureau and are operational. At the same time, an "associate" ROSET has been installed at Paraguay Bureau. The Paraguay dish is 4.6 meters and is targeted against BRASILSAT. A MOD cruising officer is on TDY at Paraguay to wring out the new dish. ☐

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GETTING THERE

The good news is that Metro opened the last 9 miles of the Orange Line between Ballston and Vienna on 7 June. A staffer who lives in Oakton reports that he drove to Vienna station, parked, and let Metro whisk him to Rosslyn, arriving--door to door--in 28 minutes. ☐

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The bad news is that anyone planning to drive to or from Georgetown these days shouldn't be in a hurry; reconstruction work on Key Bridge is holding up traffic for long periods and is expected to last almost a year. ☐

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COPING WITH CHERNOBYL

The Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster continued to be the main story throughout the spring. UD officers provided language and information support to various Agency components on the situation, and also prepared a bibliography of FBIS materials on the plant and on nuclear power plant safety. The bibliography was published as a Foreign Press Note, was transmitted by VM to selected users, and was run on the FBIS wire. The Division also retrieved and translated a March article for the DAILY REPORT from PRAVDA UKRAINY detailing construction problems at the plant. In addition, one UD officer was detailed to monitor the six main daily Moscow television newscasts being fed into Key Building from the Headquarters TVRO. []

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JPRS processed two items over a weekend for the DAILY REPORT on the Chernobyl accident and several other related items for its own publication. JPRS also prepared a 490-page compilation of all available material on the Chernobyl plant carried in the DAILY REPORT and JPRS reports both before and since the accident. []

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ANALYSIS GROUP ACTIVITIES

China analyst [] is currently serving as the State Department political officer at the American consulate in Shenyang, China. Joe, who began his TDY in mid-March, is expected to leave China in mid-July and travel via several FBIS Far East bureaus before returning the beginning of August. []

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Responding to a request from the Office of Congressional Affairs, AG's Middle East Branch prepared a review of recent Arab media commentary on the United States for use by Chairman Lee Hamilton of the House Intelligence Committee. []

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At a 7 May briefing of FBIS components, NIO for Africa Fred Wettering strongly praised AG's Analysis Report on the 27th CPSU Congress as an "excellent piece of analysis." []

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PRODUCTION GROUP DEVELOPMENTS

Production Group's Science and Technology Center has initiated a new publication--S&T PERSPECTIVES. The new publication includes contributions from all the programs in the Center, ranging from previews of articles now in translation and short S&T worldwide media highlights to features and reports. With a semimonthly publication schedule, the Center plans to devote some issues to single topics. Issues 1, 3, and 4 focus on S&T topics from a number of sources, while issue No 2 is devoted to the USSR space program. []

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As of April, a total of 130 JPRS contractors were submitting their work on diskette out of a total of 212 known to own PC's. Wordage processed on diskette reached 3.3 million. []

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[] transferred from ELAAD to become acting deputy chief, JPRS, in April, replacing [] who moved back to Key Building to devote full time to his duties as special assistant for modernization in O/C/Prod. [] took [] place as acting chief, EE Branch.

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UNIT HURT BY BELGIAN STRIKES

Antwerp Unit will remember May as the month of the Belgian civil service strikes. The business infrastructure literally collapsed, as the staff was unable to reach work via rail or bus, mail service was eliminated, and phone service to the databases cut off. By the end of May the unit had set up a temporary mailing system for contractors and alternative means to reach the office were working, but much of May's production was lost in the public mails. Strike activity was expected to continue during June, but the unit's emergency procedures should allow a return to normal production levels. []

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CLOSING OF GULF BUREAU ANNOUNCED

The FBIS message conveying the decision to close Gulf Bureau this summer was read to bureau employees in a general meeting on 17 May. Each employee met privately with the bureau chief over the next few days to discuss his or her future. Some are being offered positions at other bureaus. Planning for the phasedown of operations and transfer or separation of employees has been the main preoccupation of the bureau's managers. []

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The local government was informed of the decision a few days later, first by the ambassador in a meeting with the foreign minister, and then through the information minister in a meeting with the ambassador and the bureau chief. Discussions with embassy officers have also begun on employment prospects for those who will not be transferred, termination of leases, shipment of household effects and bureau equipment, and disposal of property. []

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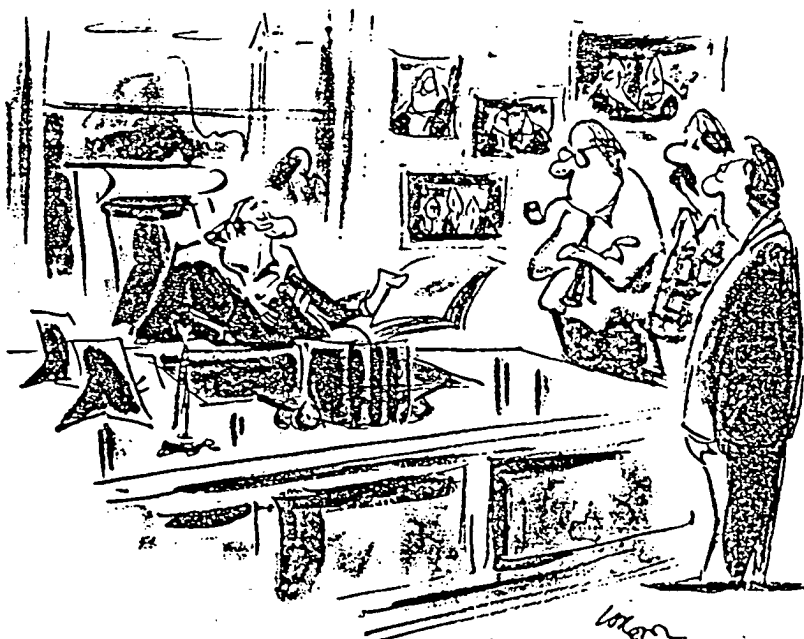
VIENNA LOCAL AREA NETWORK INSTALLED

[] of ADD led a four-person team to visit Austrian Bureau in May to install the initial phase of a bureau pilot project to test a possible model for automating FBIS bureaus worldwide. The first phase of the project connected 11 IBM PC's through a local area network (LAN), enabling the translations emanating from four monitoring positions to be filed without rekeying by the communicators. Additionally, nearly all of the remaining outgoing material is being punched on two IBM's which have been programmed to serve as teletype positions and are tied into a communications computer which queues the items and transmits them automatically. The editorial, technical, and administrative sections each have a computer tied into the network also. Headquarters is evaluating the results of this phase and deciding on the possibility of implementing a second phase that might place more positions on line and provide for processing of incoming English-language press agencies by computer. []

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But during most of this spring, it was business as usual:



"Try again, boys. This has visibility and credibility,
but it still lacks deniability."

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NEWS FROM THE BUREAUS

Physical and personnel security was a major concern at overseas bureaus this spring. In Nicosia nonessential bureau and Embassy personnel were sent home and tighter security measures were adopted around the two buildings in response to a 15 April demonstration planned by the Cyprus-Libya Friendship Association to protest the U.S. air raid on Libya. The bureau closed 18-22 April when it appeared there might be a possibility of a direct attack on the FBIS building. Emergency backstop plans were effected by other bureaus. []

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In Amman, a demonstration protesting the air raid on Libya in front of the U.S. Embassy on 16 April was small, brief, and well policed. No reprisals against American targets were reported in Jordan. []

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In Bangkok security was stepped up around the Embassy, the ambassador's residence, housing compounds, and the International School in April. There was a rash of bomb scares on 18 April against a number of embassies and businesses. The International School received a bomb threat, although the Embassy and its outlying offices were spared such threats. The paper MATICHON published a map of the U.S. Embassy area, pointing out what it said were weak spots in the security that could be exploited by would-be terrorists. The article located FBIS by initials and gave the office location and its own assessment of security at the building. []

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In Hong Kong, members of the "Blue Berets," the elite police commando unit, began guarding the Consulate and the St. Johns Building around the clock. The Consulate had one bomb scare when the mail room received a suspicious package which, when viewed on the X-ray machine, revealed electrical wiring and batteries. Swarms of Blue Berets and the bomb squad arrived within minutes of the alarm. The package turned out to be a fake. []

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In other developments, the visit by Vice President Bush to Bahrain 7-9 April caused a considerable stir in the U.S. community. Among the Vice President's activities was a brief statement to employees on the Embassy lawn, following which he mingled with the personnel. FBIS was well represented, with most employees and dependents talking with the Vice President and having photos taken with him. []

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In Seoul, the South Korean students' "spring season" of anti-government demonstrations was unexpectedly violent this year. Protesting university military training, the students forced the closure of one university, and two students set themselves on fire. On 8 June a group attempted to occupy the Embassy building. Duty editor [] witnessed the incident around 2100 local time. The bureau had no warning that anything might take place, and staffing was normal for a Sunday evening. []

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In Paraguay, the Asuncion area suffered one of the most violent thunderstorms on record on the night of 19-20 May, with hurricane or near-hurricane force winds. The Embassy and the bureau escaped serious damage, but much of the city went without power, streets were blocked by downed wires and trees, bridges were down, and houses were inundated for days afterward. []

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Swaziland Bureau Chief [] was among those invited to the stadium in Mbabane on 26 April to witness the coronation ceremonies of new Swazi King Mswati III. Others at the ceremony were South African President Botha, Mozambican President Machel, and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda. The U.S. delegation was led by Maureen Reagan. []

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DEATH OF RETIRED SENIOR OFFICER

[] died in Santa Rosa, CA, in May after a brief illness. [] had been chief of the former West Coast Bureau and of London Bureau during her FBIS career and had been chief of the predecessor office to the Daily Reporting Division. []

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